



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GEORGIA MEN SENTENCED FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF TEXAS MINORS**

(Beaumont, Texas) Two Rome, Georgia men were sentenced today for federal child exploitation charges that they committed in the Eastern District of Texas. **BRANDON KEITH SELF**, 26, was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison and **RICHARD WALLACE MASON**, 23, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison. The men were sentenced today by United States District Judge Marcia Crone.

According to information presented in court, on September 7, 2004, the Liberty County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation began investigating the disappearance of two minor children reported missing in Liberty County. The next morning, agents discovered the missing children at the residence of Self and Mason in Rome, Georgia. The investigation revealed that the defendants first came into contact with the minors through the Internet. Some time later, Self and Mason traveled from Georgia to Texas with the intention of luring the minors to Georgia for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity.

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Self pleaded guilty on February 25, 2005, to transporting minors in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in sexual activity. Mason pleaded guilty on April 21, 2005, to traveling in interstate commerce with the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual contact.

**Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the diligence of the law enforcement agents and officers, "There is nothing more precious than our children. The officers and agents who worked on this case are to be commended for their actions." Orwig also encouraged parents to be extremely cautious of their child's Internet use, "Don't ever let your guard down when your child is using a computer. Sexual predators will use every tactic imaginable to lure and ensnare your child."**

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Liberty County Sheriff's Office, the Rome, Georgia Police Department, and the Floyd County, Georgia Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney David H. Henderson prosecuted the case.

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